

Utah Domestic Violence Related Deaths 2008

An Ongoing Public Information Report of the Utah Domestic Violence Council



This report has been reviewed and approved for public distribution by the Utah Domestic Violence Council. Any printed or broadcast use of information from this report must include the following statement: “To be listed in this report, case specific information must demonstrate a correlation between domestic violence and the death of the victim as demonstrated by corroborating public information. These troubling statistics document, in summary form, the broad scope and tragic impact of domestic violence in Utah. From public information available, each listed death shows domestic violence¹ between 1) cohabitants,² 2) persons in dating relationships or 3) family members not defined within the cohabitant statute.”

The Utah Domestic Violence Council compiles and continually updates information on domestic violence related deaths. Information contained in this report was gathered from public sources; largely from newspapers and from the electronic media. Once cases have resulted in official governmental action, the committee may refer to publicly available information from law enforcement, prosecution offices and/or the Utah State Courts.

While virtually all homicides are covered in the public media, and are therefore included in this report, the majority of suicides not related to a criminal event are not so covered. Accordingly, it is probable that a number of domestic violence related suicides were not learned of by the compilers of this report and are not included in the report. That assumption is supported by information compiled by the Utah State Department of Health from confidential sources.

For more information contact the Utah Domestic Violence Council at (801) 521-5544.

DATE OF DEATH	NAME, AGE, SITUATION, RELATIONSHIP	PLACE OF DEATH
<p>January 6, 2008 #1</p>	<p>Kristy Palizzi Ragsdale, Age 30, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Sunday, January 6th was Kristy's 30th birthday. Whatever celebrations may have been planned, and her life, ended in the parking lot of her church in a hail of gunfire from a semi-automatic handgun directed against Kristy by her husband, David Ragsdale (hereafter Ragsdale).</p> <p>Kristy and Ragsdale met while they were working at the same company in Seattle. They settled in Utah where they built a comfortable life for themselves. They had two sons, ages four years and 19 months. By the fall of 2007, however, the relationship was in serious trouble. In a December court document, Kristy said the couple had separated in late October, and that in a confrontation some weeks later, Ragsdale had threatened her with a gun. The next day Kristy filed for and received a protective order from the District Court, saying, "I'm not sure how mentally stable he is right now based [on] his aggressive verbal and emotional behavior in the presence of our children." That protective order was dismissed on Dec. 20 when both parties agreed to a mutual restraining order. Just days prior to her death, Kristy had met with her lawyer to prepare divorce documents. Kristy later called her lawyer and reported that Ragsdale was upset at the amount of alimony and child support she had requested in the divorce pleadings.</p> <p>On January 6th, at about 11:00 a.m., Kristy and her mother pulled into the crowded parking lot of her church. Ragsdale had been waiting in the parking lot. When Kristy parked and got out of her car Ragsdale got out of his car and, without saying anything, began shooting her in the back. After she fell to the icy pavement he stood over her and shot her at least once in the head. He then got into his car and left. In addition to Kristy's mother, the shooting was witnessed several others, including two unrelated children.</p> <p>Ragsdale was charged by the Utah County Attorney with Aggravated Murder, a capital felony and with two counts of Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child, each being a third degree felonies. On November 26, 2008, Ragsdale appeared in the Fourth Judicial District Court and plead guilty to Aggravated Murder. The guilty plea was pursuant to an agreement in which the state moved for the dismissal of the two third degree felony charges and agreed to seek neither the death penalty or life in prison without possibility of parole against Ragsdale. On January 28, 2009, the court sentenced Ragsdale to serve a term of 20 years to life in the Utah State Prison. Under Utah's indeterminate sentencing scheme it will be up to the Board of Pardons when, or if Ragsdale is ever released from incarceration. According to reports, Kristy's family was in agreement with the resolution of the case.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC4.com, January 6 & 8, 2008; Deseret News, January 7, 8 & 25 and November 27, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, January 6, 7 & 8 and November 27, 2008; records of the Fourth Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Lehi Utah County</p>
<p>January 19, 2008 #2</p>	<p>Susanne Fry, Age 57, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Susanne had been a widow since the death of her husband several years ago. She was partially disabled and no longer drove. Neighbors in her apartment complex described her as "without guile," "a good neighbor," and that, "'If she had a fault, it was being too friendly.'" At about 11:30 on the evening of January 19th, a neighbor called Bountiful Police to report banging on the walls and glass breaking in Susanne's apartment. When police arrived they found the glass door at the rear of the apartment shattered. Upon entering, police discovered Susanne's body lying in a pool of blood. An autopsy revealed that she had been stabbed 51 times with a steak knife. Additionally, the apartment had been totally trashed. A police spokesman said, "There are holes punched in the wall, doors were broken out. There's a sliding-glass door in the back that's shattered. All the plates and mirrors had been broken."</p>	<p>Bountiful Davis County</p>

	<p>As police were searching Susanne's home, a police officer saw a man, later identified as Phillip Simmons, walking alone, without a coat, about a block from the apartment. When the officer approached Simmons to talk to him he observed a small amount of blood on his skin and clothes. In response to questioning, Simmons claimed that he had blacked out. "He says, 'We were arguing' and the next thing he knows he wakes up and there was blood everywhere,'" said a police spokesman. According to court documents, he later told police there was an argument over a plate of food he had fixed. Police found articles of clothing and other personal items belonging to Simmons in Susanne's home. They also found mail addressed to him at Susanne's address. According to a prosecutor, Susanne had allowed Simmons to stay in her apartment because he was homeless and out of work. There is no indication of any other relationship between Susanne and Simmons.</p> <p>The Davis County Attorney charged Simmons with Murder, a first degree felony. In early February, Simmons was court ordered to undergo an evaluation regarding his competency to proceed. On April 14, 2008, the Second Judicial District Court found Simmons to be legally incompetent to proceed and ordered that he be taken to the Utah State Hospital for treatment and further evaluation. On June 30, 2009, the court received a letter from the State Hospital, stating that Simmons was still incompetent. A review hearing is set for December 1, 2009.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, January 20, 2008; Deseret News, January 21, 2008 (two stories); Salt Lake Tribune, January 21 & 25, 2008; records of the Second Judicial District Court.</i></p>	
January 23, 2008 #3	<p>Ron E. Larsen, Age 53, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>At about 1:20 p.m., a woman ran into the offices of a construction company near Ron's home. She told the receptionist that she needed to call 911 regarding a domestic dispute in which a friend was involved. After dialing 911 and handing the telephone to the woman, the receptionist went to the door and, looking across an intersection, saw a man "ranting and raving" at a woman in the front yard. The receptionist then went back to work. Officers of the South Salt Lake City Police Department responded to what was characterized as an "active domestic disturbance" call. When they arrived at the home, Ron stepped onto the front porch with a handgun and shot at the officers. They returned fire, hitting Ron multiple times. He was transported to a hospital where he died of his wounds later that day.</p> <p>Relatives and police are unable to determine a motive for Ron's actions. Police had previously been to the residence and had talked to Ron, but not over anything serious and not related to domestic violence. His mother reported that he had suffered with dyslexia, family tragedy and depression. She said, however, that he had never been violent and that she had no knowledge of his even possessing a handgun.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, January 23 & 24, 2008; ABC4.com, January 24, 2008; KUTV.com, January 23, 2008; Deseret News, January 24 & 25, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, January 24 & 25, 2008.</i></p>	South Salt Lake City Salt Lake County

<p>December, 2007 (Discovered February 6, 2008) #4</p>	<p>Donna Kay Toland, Age 40, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>On February 2nd, Salt Lake City Police received a call from a man who said "he had pushed a female into the Jordan River, and he wanted the police to find her and tell her husband," according to a Salt Lake County Jail report. With little information to go on, officers checked parts of the river but could not find anyone at that time. Four days later two children playing by the river near the Utah State Fairpark found a woman's body. During an autopsy, the medical examiner determined she had died from blunt force trauma to the head. Subsequent investigation identified the body as that of Donna. At that time, investigators suspected for undisclosed reasons that the person who called dispatchers several days earlier was Gary Leon Toland (Toland), Donna's husband, according to a jail report. About 24 hours after discovery of Donna's body, police arrested Toland in connection with her death. A key break for detectives came from a woman who told investigators Toland had told her that his wife "would be found in the river."</p> <p>Donna had been missing since December, 2007. A probable cause statement filed in connection with Toland's arrest disclosed that he had filed a missing person report for his wife with Salt Lake City Police, saying he last saw her on December 1st. He called Donna's parents in Indiana on Dec. 2nd, telling them two men had thrown his wife from a bridge into the Jordan River. Her parents also received a call from Toland's parents, who said they believed Toland had killed Donna. Following his arrest, Toland told police that during a fight he had become enraged and hit Donna with his fist. She fell and struck her head on a rock. Toland then threw Donna's lifeless body into the Jordan River. Police believe Donna was likely killed in early December.</p> <p>The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Toland with Murder, a first degree felony; Obstruction of Justice, a second degree felony; and Abuse or Desecration of a Dead Human Body, a third degree felony. Following a preliminary hearing held on March 31, 2008, Toland was bound over for trial in the Third Judicial District Court. On February 4, 2009, Toland plead guilty to an amended charge of Manslaughter, a second degree felony, and to the charge of Obstruction of Justice. He waived time for sentencing and the court sentenced him to a term of 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison for the Manslaughter and to a term of 0-5 years in the Utah State Prison for the Obstruction of Justice. The court ordered that the two sentences are to run consecutively.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, February 7, 8, 12 & 13, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, 7, 8, 9, 12 & 13, 2008; records of the Third Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake City Salt Lake County</p>
<p>March 10, 2008 #5</p>	<p>Robert Ide, Age 80, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>At about 8:00 a.m. Cedar City dispatch received a call from a woman who said she had just shot her husband and that she intended to shoot herself. The caller then hung up. Dispatch tried twice to call the number but no one answered. When Washington County deputies arrived at the residence they discovered Robert's body and that of his wife, Lorraine, both dead from gunshot wounds. There was no history of domestic violence between the two that had been reported to law enforcement. The couple had moved to Utah from Michigan some 10-15 years ago. Based upon the 911 call and the contents of a note found at the scene, investigators ruled that the deaths were a murder-suicide, said a sheriff's office spokesman. The contents of the note were not released to the media. A neighbor reported that Robert had been "in bad health" and that he "could hardly get around," but the sheriff's spokesman said that investigators do not believe the slayings were part of a mercy killing or suicide pact.</p> <p><i>Sources: KUTV.com, March 10, 2008; The Spectrum, March 11, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, March 11 (two articles) & 12, 2008; Deseret News, March 11, 2008.</i></p>	<p>New Harmony Washington County</p>

March 10, 2008 #6	Lorraine Ide, Age 77, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.	New Harmony Washington County
March 31, 2008 #7	James David Rose, Jr., Age 43, Domestic Violence Related Suicide <p>At about 9 a.m., two men who were hunting rabbits in western Box Elder County, about five miles west of the Golden Spike National Monument, were flagged down by Rose who told them his female friend had been shot and needed help. Rose told the hunters he did not want assistance from police, according to a statement from the Box Elder County Sheriff's Office. The hunters, however, called police after becoming suspicious of the individual. Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene but, "The man shot himself in the head as officers approached," according to the Box Elder County Sheriff's Office. The woman was flown by medical helicopter to McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden to be treated for a gunshot wound to the leg. Her injuries were not life-threatening and she is expected to make a full recovery.</p> <p>This all started at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 30th, when Rose, who hails from Oklahoma but who, according to Boise Police, has recently been a part time Boise resident, forced his way into the woman's residence in Bosie, Idaho. He threatened her and her three children, all under the age of ten, with a gun. The children were able to escape and run to a neighbor's home where 911 was called. By the time police arrived at the Boise residence, Rose and the woman were gone. Boise police immediately began investigating the event as a kidnapping. The exact relationship between Rose and the woman is unclear. She had a child with Rose but they were not married.</p> <p>Early the next morning Rose stole a pack of beer from a convenience store in Snowville, Utah. When the attendant tried to intervene Rose threatened him to stay away but then told the attendant to call the cops and tell them there was a woman in the car who had been shot. Rose then drove away. He and the woman were next seen when he waived down the rabbit hunters in the very remote country west of the Golden Spike National Monument. The car had apparently run out of gas.</p> <p><i>Sources: IdahoStatesman.com, March 31, 2008 (two articles); The Standard Examiner, April 1, 2008; KUTV.com, March 31, 2008; KSL.com, March 31, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, March 31 and April 1, 2008; Deseret News, April 1, 2008.</i></p>	Promontory Summit Area Box Elder County
April 10, 2008 #8	Annette Young, Age 46, Dating Relationship Homicide <p>Annette and Donald Bert Richardson were longtime friends who were "very much in love since they were about 16 years old," said a cousin of his who lived down the street from Annette. An aunt of Richardson's said, "he was Annette's first boyfriend, and she was his first girlfriend, but they had gone on with their lives. He's been married and has three children, and she has been married three or four times."</p> <p>The two picturesque and peaceful towns of Fairview and Mount Pleasant in northern Sanpete County were shaken when the murdered bodies of Annette and of Martin Cannon were discovered. Martin's body was found at about 11:30 p.m. on April 10th, shot once in the head and lying in the door of his mobile home. Annette's body was discovered the next morning in her residence, apparently having been beaten to death. Within hours, Richardson became the suspect in the two deaths. Immediately following the killings, Richardson drove to Oregon. When he ran out of gas there he called a sister and asked her to come and get him. She told him to turn himself in. Shortly thereafter he turned himself into the Douglas County, Oregon Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>Following Richardson's first court appearance in Utah, a prosecutor said of Richardson, "It seems like he went on a spree of taking care and settling old scores." Annette's killing appeared to be a result of a falling out between the two people who once dated. Further investigation revealed that Martin Cannon (see the next entry) had befriended Annette and, on several occasions, had asked</p>	Fairview Sanpete County

	<p>her to go on a date with him. Annette had told Richardson of those requests by Mr. Cannon, in response to which Richardson became angry. He made it clear he was not happy at someone else making overtures toward Annette.</p> <p>The Sanpete County Attorney charged Richardson with two counts of Aggravated Murder, both capital felonies, one count of Aggravated Burglary, a first degree felony, and two counts of second degree felony Theft. On November 13, 2008, Richardson plead guilty to the two counts of Aggravated Murder. On December 19, 2008, Richardson was sentenced by the 6th Judicial District Court to serve two concurrent terms of Life Without the Possibility of Parole in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, April 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 & 24, and November 14, 2008; Deseret News, April 11, 12 & 13 and November 13, 2008; the Sanpete County Attorney's Office; records of the Sixth Judicial District Court.</i></p>	
April 10, 2008 #9	<p>Martin Cannon, Age 39, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>See the immediately preceding entry.</p>	Mount Pleasant Sanpete County
April 18 or 19, 2008 #10	<p>Deborah Jones, Age 50, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Deborah had met with domestic violence detectives of the Salt Lake City Police Department on Wednesday, April 16th, concerned about threats made by her former live-in boyfriend, Michael Doyel. She and Doyel had lived together for several months prior to their breakup some two weeks earlier. Jones agreed to another meeting the next day, but never returned to the station, police said. That was also the last day Deborah was ever seen by family and friends. She was last heard from on April 18th, when she made a telephone call to a friend. After that, she just disappeared. Family members called police, suspecting that Doyel may have taken Deborah against her will. On April 20th, Police issued a nationwide endangered person alert and began a wide ranging investigation but, at that time, had no information that any crime had even been committed. Despite their efforts, police were unable to locate either Deborah or Doyel.</p> <p>On Monday night, April 21st, based upon the tracking of cell phone calls, Salt Lake City Police contacted police in Branson, Missouri, telling them Doyel might be in that area. By 9:00 p.m. that evening Branson Police had discovered Doyel's automobile in the parking lot of a Branson motel. Doyel and a West Valley City woman were found in one of the hotel rooms. When Doyel's automobile was searched, Deborah's body was found, stuffed into a plastic storage container. Salt Lake City Police determined that the West Valley City woman who was with Doyel in Branson was a resident of an assisted living center. Surveillance video showed the woman leaving the center with Doyel on Friday, April 18th. The woman's legal guardian said the courts had ruled the woman to be incompetent to care for herself and that Doyel had no authorization to remove her from her residence. The woman told police that there had never been any other passenger in the car with her and Doyel and that she had no knowledge there was a body in the car.</p> <p>Following an autopsy, the coroner for Tweedy County, Missouri, determined that Deborah had died of asphyxiation, consistent with a homicide, on Friday or Saturday, April 18th or 19th.</p> <p>The United States Attorney for Utah obtained a federal indictment against Doyel for Kidnapping the West Valley City woman. The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Doyel with Murder, a first-degree felony, Obstruction of Justice and Theft, both second degree felonies, and with a state Kidnapping charge in connection with his removal of the West Valley City woman. The state charging documents allege that Deborah was strangled at 4115 S. Redwood Road and suffered blunt force trauma to the back of her head. Doyel plead not guilty to all charges. Indigent defense counsel has been appointed to represent him in both the state and federal courts. In October of 2008, the court ordered an inquiry into Doyel's competency to be performed at the Utah State Hospital. On May 22, 2009, following a competency hearing in the Third Judicial District</p>	Salt Lake City Salt Lake County

	<p>Court, Doyel was found to be incompetent, but likely to gain competency. Doyel was ordered returned to the Utah State Hospital for continued treatment. Another competency hearing was scheduled for May 14, 2010. Further proceedings are also pending in Federal Court.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, April 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, May 1, 20, June 3, 2008, May 22, 2009; Deseret News, April 22, 26, May 1, 4, 8, 10, 20, 2008; KSL.com, April 22, 2008; KUTV.com, April 22, 2008. Records of the 3rd Judicial Dist. Court.</i></p>	
May 7, 2008 #11	<p>Ross Lopez Rocha, Age 35, Perpetrator Suicide</p> <p>At about 9:00 a.m. on May 7th, Rocha broke into the Salt Lake City home that he formerly shared with his girlfriend. He assaulted the woman and then refused to leave her home for several hours. The woman, who is a Salt Lake City police officer, eventually persuaded the man to let her leave the house with her children, according to a Salt Lake County Sheriff's spokesman. She notified police and went to a hospital to seek treatment for her injuries. When police arrived at the home at 12:20 p.m., they heard one gunshot and, upon entering the residence, found Rocha dead in the bathroom from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.</p> <p>It is unclear from news releases whether the couple had previous domestic violence issues or exactly what led up to the assault and suicide. The couple had lived together but the woman had changed her locks after Rocha moved out. The couple had children in common, all of whom lived with the woman.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, May 8 & 17, 2008; Deseret News, May 8, 2008.</i></p>	Salt Lake City Salt Lake County
Some days prior to May 12, 2008 #12, 13 & 14	<p>Tracie Williamson, Age 28, Cohabitant Homicide Linzie Williamson, Age 10, Domestic Violence Related Homicide Jessica Perez, Age 1, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>Tracie first told her family in 2007 that her live-in boyfriend, Peter Perez, had been mentally and physically abusing her. A journal-like letter she wrote four weeks prior to her death and left at her father's home detailed how Perez warned her not to contact police, on one occasion sticking a gun barrel in his mouth and threatening to shoot. "She was so scared," said her father. "Peter threatened to chop her up in little pieces and kill her if she went to the police or if she said anything to anyone." On May 12th, the family's worst fears were realized when officers of the South Salt Lake City Police Department found the bodies of Tracie, her daughter, Linzie, Perez's daughter, Jessica, and Perez himself inside the couple's home. Tracie's family had contacted police several times to report abuse by Perez, but they say Tracie was too scared to leave him. Police say that because she was an adult, she had to take her own action. When Tracie did have opportunities to talk to police, she never mentioned anything was wrong. She never asked officers for help or sought a protective order.</p> <p>Twice during April, 2008, family members had reported concerns of abuse to police. On both occasions officers responded to the home and spoke with both Tracie and Perez, who both denied any abuse or other problem. On neither occasion did police see any obvious signs of abuse. On May 10th, after not hearing from Tracie for some days, the family again requested a police check. That time there was no response to police knocks. Because no evidence of criminal activity was observed, police could not force entry. On May 12th, Tracie's father accompanied police to the couple's home for another welfare check. This time police said, "something just didn't seem right," so they forced a window open. They immediately smelled a foul odor and saw one body.</p> <p>The police investigation determined that Tracie and the two girls had died from multiple gunshot wounds. Perez had apparently died from a single, self inflicted gunshot wound.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, May 13 & 14, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, May 13, 14 & 15, 2008; Deseret News, May 14 & 15, 2008.</i></p>	South Salt Lake City Salt Lake County

Some days prior to May 12, 2008 #15	Peter Perez, Age 34, Perpetrator Suicide See the immediately preceding entry.	South Salt Lake City Salt Lake County
June 15, 2008 #16	Christopher Kirsch, Age 62, Cohabitant Homicide <p>The Kirsches knew their son's schizophrenia could make him dangerous. Three years earlier he had plead guilty to stabbing charges. But the two teachers wanted the best care for their son and eventually brought 31-year-old Michael Kirsch (Kirsch) into their home in Orem. "He [Christopher] and his wife had reportedly talked about the dangers of just this kind of thing happening, but were trying to help their son despite their concerns for personal safety," a police spokesman said. At times, things seemed to go all right. Neighbors reported seeing 62-year-old Christopher Kirsch planting flowers and bushes with his son in their garden. But on Father's Day a fight resulted in the parent's worst fears; Kirsch stabbed his father 26 times in the chest and back with a 10-inch carving knife.</p> <p>Police received the first of two frantic 911 calls from Christopher's wife at about 9:00 a.m. She reported that the father and son were fighting. About three minutes later she called again to report that Kirsch was now stabbing Christopher. Police arrived within one minute of the second call. They found Christopher lying in the master bedroom, bleeding from multiple stab wounds in the back, shoulder and stomach. He was transported to a nearby hospital where in died within minutes. Kirsch walked out of the bedroom, empty handed, as police entered the residence. He was placed under arrest.</p> <p>The Utah County Attorney charged Kirsch with Aggravated Murder, a capitol felony, and Aggravated Assault (against Mrs. Kirsch), a third degree felony. Indigent defense counsel has been appointed by the Fourth Judicial District Court.</p> <p>On October 30, 2008, following similar finding from two mental health evaluations, Kirsh was ruled by a judge of the Fourth Judicial District Court to be incompetent to stand trail.</p> <p>On March 26, 2009, following a finding that Kirsh was then competent to proceed, the court accepted Kirsh's guilty plea to Aggravated Murder. The charge of Aggravated Assault was dismissed. On May 7, 2009, the court sentenced Kirsh to serve a term of 20 years to life in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: Daily Herald, June 16, 2008; Deseret News, June 16 & 17, October 31, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, June 16 & 17, 2008; ABC4.com, June 15, 2008; KSL.com, June 15, 2008; KUTV.com, June 15, 2008; records of the Fourth Judicial District Court.</i></p>	Orem Utah County
August 8, 2008 #17	Morena Molly Robbins, Age 51, Cohabitant Homicide <p>An ex-boyfriend's jealousy over Morena's new relationship is a possible motive behind her murder, according to a police probable cause statement. Charles Gunkel arrived at Morena's home at about 4:15 p.m. When her 14 year old daughter answered the door he asked to speak to Morena. The daughter refused, closing and locking the door. Gunkel responded by breaking through the locked front door. He found Morena and pushed her onto the floor in her bedroom, pinning her arms while sitting on her and starting to strangle her. Gunkel then took out a knife and threatened Morena. When the daughter told him to stop, he pointed the knife at her "and told her to 'shut up' or he would 'cut her, too,'" according to court documents. The daughter then ran to a neighbor's house and called 911. When police arrived they found Morena's body in her bedroom. She had died from five stab wounds to the abdomen. About five minutes later a second 911 call came in from Gunkel's residence, a few blocks away, saying he was there. He was sitting on the grass in the front yard when officers arrived and was arrested without incident. The knife was found in bushes in front of Morena's house.</p>	Magna Salt Lake County

	<p>The Salt Lake District Attorney charged Gunkel with Aggravated Murder, a capitol felony, Aggravated Burglary, a first degree felony, and Aggravated Assault, a third degree felony. Indigent defense counsel has been appointed. On September 15, 2009, following a preliminary hearing, a magistrate found there was probable cause to believe that Gunkel committed the crimes and ordered that he be bound over for trail in the Third Judicial District Court. As of October 1, 2009, a trial date had yet to be set.</p> <p><i>Sources: Salt Lake Tribune, August 9 & 10, 2008; Deseret News, August 8, 9 & 12, 2008; KSL.com, August 8 & 12, 2008; records of the Third Judicial District Court.</i></p>	
<p>August 12, 2008 #18</p>	<p>Greg Martin Lamb, Age 28, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>Lamb was shot and killed by police officers at the end of a near two hour standoff. Law Enforcement was contacted twice that afternoon regarding problems at the Lamb family home in Hyde Park. Originally Lamb's father called police and said, "My son is threatening our lives and we want him out of here," according to a report on the incident prepared by the Cache County Attorney's Office. Police did not respond to the home at that time. A short time later, at about 2:30 p.m., police did go to the Lamb residence in response to what was characterized as a "domestic call" after a neighbor dialed 911 to report an altercation between Lamb and his brother. Up to that time the disturbance had apparently been verbal only. Shortly after officers arrived at the Lamb residence, as they were talking to Lamb's father and brother at the front door, shots were heard coming from Lamb's basement bedroom. The shots were fired out the basement window, but it was unclear whether the shots were aimed at anyone in particular. The officers retreated and took the brother and father out of the house with them. Additional police, including a SWAT unit, were called in. A trained police negotiator talked to Lamb for more than 90 minutes, attempting to get him to leave the residence without his guns. Despite some amount of rapport that developed between the negotiator and Lamb, Lamb expressed at least twice during the conversation that he planned to die that night. Based upon family statements and the transcript of the telephone conversation between Lamb and the negotiator, it was evident that Lamb was intoxicated.</p> <p>Eventually, Lamb ended the telephone conversation and climbed out of the basement window, emerging with a firearm in each hand, at least one of them raised above his head. Police repeatedly told him to drop the guns. When Lamb lowered the gun as if to point it in the direction of officers, several officers fired very nearly simultaneously. Lamb suffered numerous bullet wounds. Despite efforts of EMTs who were on the scene, Lamb died from his wounds.</p> <p>The inclusion of this death in the Domestic Violence Related Deaths list was closely scrutinized. Ultimately, it was the threat made by Lamb against the life of other family members, as reported to law enforcement by his father, that tipped the decision in favor of inclusion. A deadly threat against a family member with whom one lives constitutes violence directed at a cohabitant.</p> <p><i>Sources: The Herald Journal, August 13 & 14, September 20 & 21, 2008; Deseret News, August 12, 14 & 29, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, August 13 & 14, 2008.</i></p>	<p>Hyde Park Cache County</p>

<p>August 21, 2008 #19</p>	<p>James Leon Harper, Age 48, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>James died in the residence he shared with his wife Bonnie Harper (hereafter Harper) after she stabbed him with a butcher knife. Just before 9:00 p.m. Logan City Police were dispatched to the residence pursuant to a 911 call from a neighbor who reported a domestic disturbance. When they arrived police found James with a stab wound in his back. He was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Prior to his death, James told a neighbor and a paramedic that his wife had stabbed him. Harper was found hiding outside the residence with blood on her clothing. A blood alcohol test performed on Harper after her arrest showed a blood alcohol level of 0.17, more than twice the level at which it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle. Police were unable to determine how long the couple had been fighting or to determine a cause of the fight.</p> <p>A police spokesman told reporters that police had “responded to the residence before” but declined to elaborate. State court records, however, outline what appears to have been a turbulent relationship for more than a decade between the couple. In March of 2008, Harper filed for and obtained a protective order against James in the First Judicial District Court, claiming cohabitant abuse. She had taken the same action in 1995 in the Fifth Judicial District Court in Washington County, but requested the petition be dismissed less than 10 days after filing it.</p> <p>James was a registered sex offender, having been convicted in 1997 of second-degree felony Sexual Abuse of a Child. Just days prior to his death, James had been charged in Cache County's First Judicial District Court with Driving Under the Influence, Failing to Remain at the Scene of an Injury-causing Accident, Driving on a Suspended License and Improper Use of Lanes, all related to an August 12th incident.</p> <p>The Cache County Attorney charged Harper with Murder, a first degree felony. Later, as part of a negotiated plea, the charge was reduced to Manslaughter, a second degree felony, to which Harper plead guilty. On December 4, 2008, Harper was sentenced by the First Judicial District Court to serve a term of 1-15 years in the Utah State Prison.</p> <p><i>Sources: The Herald Journal, August 22 & 23 and September 4, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, August 22, 23, 25 & 27 and December 4, 2008; Deseret News, August 22 & 23, 2008; Records of the First Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Logan Cache County</p>
<p>August 30, 2008 #20</p>	<p>Richard Charles Jackson, Age 40, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>Jackson was shot and killed by police as he held a knife to his former wife's neck and yelled out a countdown to kill her. West Valley City police officers responded to the couple's home shortly before 3:30 p.m. in response to a 911 call made by the couple's 16-year-old daughter. The daughter reported that her father, after entering the home through an unlocked door, was strangling her mother and that her mother was gasping for air. By the time police arrived, Jackson had dragged his former wife down the street, holding a knife to her neck and screaming that he was going to kill her. A witness quoted Jackson as yelling, “I'm going to kill her. She's mine.” “He was counting down '10, 9, 8, 7, ” said a police spokesman. At one point the police backed off a ways and the man briefly halted his countdown and appeared to calm down, but then began counting again. That is when one officer fired, hitting Jackson.</p> <p>The couple had a history of domestic abuse and police had been called on multiple occasions. Just the week before Jackson was killed he had chased and rammed his former wife's vehicle with his pickup as she drove in the parking lot at the Valley Fair Mall.</p> <p>Jackson's former wife was emotionally shaken after the incident but otherwise not injured, according to police. The couple's 16-year-old daughter and an infant in the house during the dispute were not physically harmed.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, August 31 & September 1, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, August 31 & September 1, 2008; KSL.com, August 30, 2008.</i></p>	<p>West Valley City Salt Lake County</p>

<p>September 22, 2008 #21</p>	<p>Brian Wood, Age 37, Domestic Violence Related Death</p> <p>What began as a police response to a domestic dispute ended, following a 12 hour standoff with police, in Wood's death from gunshot fired by an officer of the Davis County Sheriff's Office. Sometime around 9:00 a.m. Wood and his wife had been in a heated argument, during which he used a gun to fire a shot into an outside garbage can. The shooting prompted Wood's wife to take the couple's ten-year-old child and flee the residence. Neither the wife nor the child were injured. According to a police spokesman, Wood then made a call to 911, telling police what had taken place and telling them to "come and get me." By the time police arrived Wood was in his pickup truck and refused to get out. He had one or two guns with him which he repeatedly held to his head or chest. On at least one occasion he pointed a gun at police but no shots were fired. After some hours, during which police were able to communicate with Wood by cell phone and a relative communicated with him via a bull horn, police fired tear gas canisters at the truck. A side window was broken but apparently the canister did not go into the truck. Police also used a robot to release tear gas around the truck. On one or more occasions Wood got out of the truck while holding a gun to his head and talking to officers on a cell phone. Finally, shortly after 10:00 p.m., police used flash bang grenades in an attempt to disorient Wood then tried to rush the pickup and take Wood into custody. During that attempt, according to the police spokesman, Wood fired a shot and an officer returned fire, hitting Wood. Wood was flown to University Hospital but died shortly thereafter.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL.com, September 23 & 24, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, September 23 & 24, 2008; Deseret News, September 23 & 24, 2008; Standard Examiner, September 23 & 24, 2008; ABC4.com, September 23, 2008.</i></p>	<p>Farmington Davis County</p>
<p>November 26, 2008 #22</p>	<p>Kevin A. Aure, Age 45, Domestic Violence Related Suicide</p> <p>Shortly before 10:00 a.m., Layton Police dispatch received a 911 call, during which the male caller reported that another man had pointed a gun at him. When police arrived at the residence, the caller, Aure's wife and the couple's son were able to leave the residence but Aure stayed inside. According to police, Aure had struck someone inside the home then pulled a gun on two others. The SWAT team was called out and arrived at the Aure residence just after 10:00 a.m. Shortly after their arrival SWAT officers were able to establish telephone communication with Aure. That communication continued on and off until about 3:30 p.m. when Aure ended the contact. During the standoff a police spokesman said, "He's not agitated or hostile. It's a very calm conversation." The spokesman also reported, however, that Aure "did make threats of hurting himself" and insisted he did not want to be arrested. After Aure ended the last telephone call, police made several calls to the cell phone he had been using, but there was no answer. At 3:50 p.m., after obtaining a search warrant, the SWAT team set off concussion grenades and entered the house. They found Aure, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, in the driver's seat of a Jeep Cherokee in the garage.</p> <p>According to a media report, this incident was the second time Layton police had been called to a domestic dispute in which Aure allegedly had a gun. In the first incident, the gun discharged, but not in the direction of a person, police were reported to have said. It was not clear whether the shot was deliberate. In January of 2003, Aure was charged in the Second Judicial District Court in Davis County with Aggravated Assault, domestic violence related, a third degree felony. The charge was later dismissed with no further explanation.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, November 27, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, November 27, 2008; records of the Second Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Layton Davis County</p>

<p>December 25, 2008 #23</p>	<p>Noemi Rodriguez, Age 26, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>At about 1:30 p.m. on December 26th a snowplow driver was clearing the road that runs through the Huntsville Cemetery when his blade hit something unusual. When the driver got out to investigate he found Noemi's body. It had been covered by the heavy snowfall that hit the Ogden Valley on Christmas afternoon and night. During its investigation, the Weber County Sheriff's Office determined that Noemi was a homicide victim, that she had suffered physical trauma, that she had died in the cemetery and that she had been dead 12 to 14 hours before the driver found her. No identifying information was found at the crime scene and it took investigators until December 27th to determine the identity of the body.</p> <p>A week before Noemi's death, Layton City Police had investigated a report that her children had been left alone. The report was made by Gutberto Heras-Corrales. Noemi's story was different. She told police that she had left the children in Heras-Corrales' care. Noemi and Heras-Corrales had apparently been living together in her home. They had parented one child together. During the investigation police also learned of a physical fight between the two individuals a day or two earlier. They both reported that they had been assaulted by the other. Given conflicting stories and a lack of physical evidence, police took the report for submission to the city prosecutor. One day following that contact with the Layton City Police, Noemi's house was destroyed by fire. On December 31st, the Davis County Attorney's Office charged Heras-Corrales with Aggravated Arson, a first degree felony, in connection with the burning of Noemi's home. A warrant was issued by the Second Judicial District Court for his arrest.</p> <p>Noemi was last seen alive by a family member shortly after she got off work on Christmas. On December 28th her Jeep Cherokee was located in the parking lot of an Ogden motel. According to police, she appears to have parked it there. Following an extensive police investigation the Weber County Attorney, on July 13, 2009, charged Heras-Corrales with Murder, a first degree felony, for Noemi's death. The Second Judicial District Court issues a warrant for his arrest and set bail in the amount of \$500,000. As of September, 2009, Heras-Corrales had not been taken into custody. He had been illegally in the United States and has a history of aggravated re-entry into the country.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, December 27, 28 & 30, 2008; Salt Lake Tribune, December 26, 27 & 29, 2008, January 1, 2009; records of the Second Judicial District Court.</i></p>	<p>Huntsville Weber County</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">COHABITANT HOMICIDES: 10 PERPETRATOR SUICIDES: 3 DATING RELATIONSHIP HOMICIDES: 1 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDE: 3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED SUICIDE: 2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATH: 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS IN UTAH DURING 2008: 23</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NUMBER OF DV RELATED DEATHS CAUSED BY THE USE OF A FIREARM: 15</p>		

1. Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 2.1 Domestic Violence Means

- Any criminal offense involving

- violence

- physical harm

- threat** of violence or physical harm

Any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving

- violence or physical harm

When committed by one **cohabitant** against another

Under Utah Chapter 77, Title 36, Section 1 Domestic Violence also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another

aggravated assault

assault

criminal homicide

harassment

telephone harassment

kidnapping, child kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping

mayhem (mutilation of a body part)

sexual offenses

- unlawful sexual intercourse

- rape

- object rape

- sodomy-forcible sodomy

- forcible sexual abuse

- aggravated sexual assault

- sexual exploitation of a minor

stalking

unlawful detention

violation of a protective order

offenses against property (theft is not a domestic violence offense)

possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault

discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building or vehicle

disorderly conduct if conviction result of plea negotiation from an original DV offense

child witnessing DV child abuse

any other criminal offense involving violence or physical harm

2. Under Utah Title 30, Chapter 6, Section 1: the Cohabitant Abuse Act, a cohabitant is defined as:

- (2) "Cohabitant" means an emancipated person pursuant to Section 15-2-1 or a person who is 16 years of age or older who:

(a) is or was a spouse of the other party;

(b) is or was living as if a spouse of the other party;

(c) is related by blood or marriage to the other party;

(d) has one or more children in common with the other party;

(e) is the biological parent of the other party's unborn child; or

(f) resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party.

- (3) Notwithstanding Subsection (2), "cohabitant" does not include:

(a) The relationship of natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor; or

(b) The relationship between natural, adoptive, step, or foster siblings who are under 18 years of age.